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THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

S U M M E R 2 0 1 0

V O L U M E 5 5

N U M B E R 4

“
We know that
giving students
conceptual
knowledge
isn't enough.
Giving
them an
opportunity
to make it
practical helps
it take hold.
”



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Dr. Leah Zuidema coordinated the conversation at the final meeting of this year's "Lesson Roundtables" during exam week, bringing together upperclass English education students and first year teachers to talk about lesson planning and what they'd observed in classrooms.

Lesson Roundtables

Sally Jongsma

Once a month this semester, several English education students, two local first-year English teachers, and Dr. Leah Zuidema sat down for an hour and a half to plan lessons to be used in upcoming classes and to discuss their observations of previous classes. Zuidema teaches future middle and high school language arts teachers to teach. English secondary

education majors, like all education students, take a "methods" course in their area of specialty, learning practical strategies and helpful techniques from a master teacher. This year, Zuidema, who teaches the English methods

course, also offered her students "Lesson Roundtables," another opportunity to develop as professionals.

Although Zuidema says that it took a little while to find a good way to do group planning, she believes it's been a three-way win: the teachers received help during their overwhelmingly busy first year of teaching, the students got to plan for a specific class with real students and observe their ideas put into action, and Zuidema came to a better sense of what she needs to emphasize in her methods class.

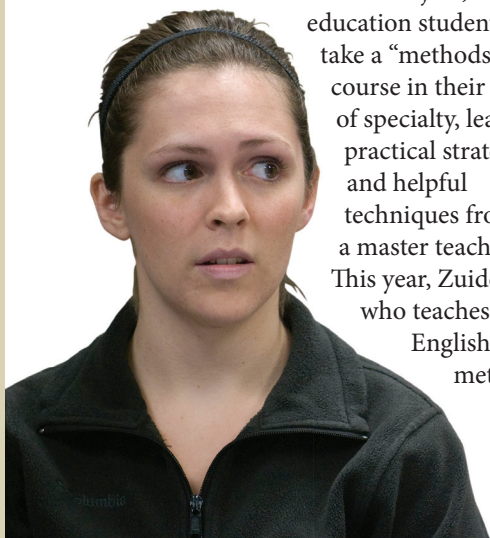
Zuidema hopes there will be long-term benefit as well.

"Even conservative numbers show that nearly three in ten teachers quit or change schools after their first year; some studies show that half of new teachers quit within the first five years," says Zuidema. This turnover puts a tremendous academic and financial strain on school systems and students. She wants to help teachers stay in the profession and also to thrive.

"Even though new teachers don't have years of classroom experience, they know

many important things they can pass on," says Zuidema, who believes that the interaction between her students and the young teachers helped the teachers think about why they make the choices they do and stimulated professional growth. She describes their role as novice-experts. She developed that concept based on research she's read suggesting that although new teachers benefit from a good mentor relationship with an experienced master teacher, they also need to develop confidence in what they know and can do.

For each Lesson Roundtables planning session, the group worked through a process known as "backward design," or teaching with the end goals in mind. After the teachers laid out the learning goals for the lesson, the group identified the essential questions they wanted students to explore and then came up with tasks that would help students explore those questions. From there, they designed the lessons and talked about how they would know what students were learning. Zuidema brought helpful resources and the Dordt students brought the creative ideas they'd been developing and learning in their program.



Junior Cora Bonnema says she appreciated the opportunity to interact with new teachers and ask questions about their teaching. "It is very useful to get a taste of what lies ahead."

(continued on page 2)

Kiley Boone loves learning languages

I believe languages reflect how a culture perceives and organizes the world, so with each language I study, I see the world from a new perspective,” says Kiley Boone. “I also enjoy learning languages because they allow me to connect with people from around the world and give me access to a wider base of literature.”

Boone wanted to learn one more language before she graduated. Since her favorite language so far is Dutch, Professor Leendert van Beek encouraged her to learn Indonesian. Indonesia used to be a Dutch colony, so Indonesian adopted some aspects of Dutch. With 150 million speakers, Indonesian is becoming one of the most prevalent languages in the world.

So Boone applied for a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study in Indonesia this summer. Out of 5,300 applicants, Boone was awarded one of approximately 575 scholarships given to U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indonesian, Persian, Russian, Indic (Bangla/Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu), and Turkic (Turkish and Azerbaijani) languages.

Boone will spend seven to ten weeks in intensive language training in Indonesia. Program participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship and apply their language skills in their future professional careers.

Boone plans to go to medical school and she hopes to use the foreign language skills and the cross cultural communication skills she acquires while living in Indonesia to better connect with a diverse group of patients.

“I also want to go on medical mission trips, likely to Indonesia, to provide medical care to underserved populations abroad,” she says.

The Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarships (CLS) for Intensive Summer Institutes was launched in 2006 to increase opportunities for American students to study critical-need languages overseas and is part of a wider U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering these languages.

From a Pastor's Heart

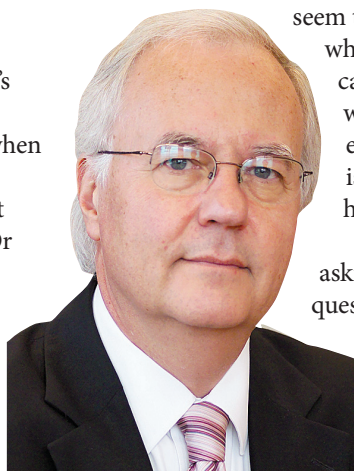
Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Maybe it's the pastor's heart that I never quite left behind when I gave up the pulpit ministry to become president of Dordt College fourteen years ago. Or maybe it's the fact that I have spent the past decade and a half living on a campus filled with late adolescent young adults.

Whatever the cause, I find that each year I get more and more upset over the choices many seventeen- and eighteen-year-old Christian young people are making as they decide where to attend college. Every year when young people announce where they are planning to go for college, my reaction is a stunned, “What are they thinking?”

It's not that I expect everyone to enroll at Dordt College. We wouldn't have room for them all. Somewhere between four and five million new students enroll in American colleges and universities every year—and we're looking for only about 450 new students a year at Dordt College.

My fear is that many college decisions



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

seem to be based on little more than whim or impulse rather than a careful assessment of exactly what type of education an eighteen-year-old child of God is likely to receive as a result of his or her choice.

I hope someone is asking each of them a few simple questions:

What talents and gifts do you want to develop to serve God for the next forty years of your life?

What areas of God's world do you think you would enjoy studying so that, knowing more about his creation, you will be able to spend the rest of your life more fully praising him for his amazing power and glory. How much time and effort are you able and willing to invest so that the next forty years can be filled with joy and blessing as you use those talents to serve the coming of God's kingdom?

From my point of view, only after asking those questions should prospective collegians begin to choose (from among the 4500 or so colleges and universities in North America) the college or university that best enables them to learn what they want to learn in

order to serve God more fully that offers an environment that nurtures their desire to glorify God and motivates them to spend their lives in service to his kingdom that matches the resources they are willing and able to invest as they prepare for the rest of their lives.

Many Christian young people and their families do go through some version of this process. When they do, I don't mind if they don't choose Dordt College at the conclusion of their process. But it wounds my heart to see young people naively head off to colleges that do not offer what they need to become strong and faithful Christian adults, equipped for a lifetime of service to their Lord.

Not all colleges are the same. And, in fact, not every college with the name “Christian” means the same thing by that term. That's not bad in itself. The beauty of American higher education is that there is so much diversity among institutions. But my pastor's heart hopes that more students think through this choice carefully—and that their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and adult friends would help them do so prayerfully.

If, in the process, a few more of those students find that Dordt College is the place that will best equip them for a lifetime of knowing, loving, and serving their Lord, that would be a pretty good outcome as well.

Pre-service teachers get an inside look

(continued from page 1)

In addition to planning the specifics of the lessons, general conversations about such topics as how to make literature circles work, how to keep students' attention, and how to keep them productive kept participants engaged.

“Lesson Roundtables were very helpful. We have a creative bunch, which helped us come up with many engaging lessons,” says Mandi Dolieslager from Unity Christian High School in Orange City. “As a first-year teacher, I need all the help I can get. I was able to not only develop new and interesting lessons but also hear from another first-year teacher about her struggles and ideas. It's like a support group for first-year teachers.”

Dolieslager also believes it gave pre-service teachers a realistic view of teaching and helped them to realize that good lessons take time. “I think it's helpful for them to see that lessons dreamed up on paper often look different in the classroom.”

“We know that giving students conceptual knowledge isn't enough,” says Zuidema. “Giving them an opportunity to make it practical helps it take hold. Learning how to teach well is like putting a puzzle together—you need to find the right pieces to make it work.”

“I found Roundtable to be a great experience,” says Kaitlyn Horvat. “It's helped me see the steps behind planning the lessons, the benefits as well as some challenges to collaborative lesson planning, and it gives real insight into the life of two first-year teachers.” Horvat believes that collaborating also helped her gain more confidence in her own ideas as she saw them embraced by others and fit into the plans.



Like the others who participated in Lesson Roundtables, Mandi Dolieslager had plenty to keep her busy this year. But also like the others, she found that making the time to meet helped her teaching.

“It was a lot of fun when we would get a really good idea and people would start throwing out more ideas until we would come up with a good part of a lesson.”

Horvat appreciated seeing first-hand some of the frustrations of first year teachers and seeing how the teachers handled different situations.

“The most valuable thing I learned is probably that there are a ton of different ways to teach any one lesson, but it is really important to relate it to your particular students. I also learned the value of getting advice from others when planning challenging lessons. I am glad that I decided to participate!”

Sinnema is inspired by Haitians' faith

Lawren Sinnema ('06) arrived in Haiti at the beginning of February, working with local World Relief staff to coordinate their relief activities. He assessed the needs of camps and churches around Port-au-Prince to determine where World Relief should intervene. He helped plan distributions of food, water, shelter, and other emergency supplies to meet the needs of earthquake victims.

Sinnema was in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, until mid-April. He continues to support Haiti relief efforts from the organization's headquarters in Baltimore and expects to make return trips in the coming months. Sinnema responded to these interview questions while he was in Haiti.

What was your first thought upon arriving in Haiti?

I felt overwhelmed. This is the first time that I have witnessed a disaster on this scale. At first sight, the destruction in Port-au-Prince is shocking. I wanted to help immediately, yet I soon learned that the complexity of Haiti made it very difficult to respond quickly.

What has been the most challenging part of your work in Haiti?

I have worked in Haiti for over two months, and one of most challenging parts of the work is trying to avoid burn out. It's not a forty-hour-per-week job. You have to work long hours, nights, and weekends, and in Port-au-Prince, there are not many places to relax and take a break.

The pictures and videos I had seen prior to my arrival did not prepare me for the scale of devastation and loss I am seeing here. In Port-au-Prince, there are thousands of collapsed buildings and rubble is everywhere. People are crowded into camps around the city, sleeping under tents, tarps, or whatever materials they have in their possession. The rainy season starts in April, and many people still don't have adequate shelter to protect them.

I have witnessed five aftershocks during my time here. I've woken up to my bed shaking and had to run out of the house. The feeling of uncertainty was the worst, knowing that another tremor could happen at any time. Many of my Haitian colleagues still won't sleep inside. They sleep in tents (some lost their homes) or, if they own one, their car.

What has been the most inspiring?

I am inspired by the resiliency and faith of the Haitian people. On the one-month anniversary of the quake, there was a national weekend of mourning. For three days, I heard non-stop singing and prayer throughout the city.

How are Haitians moving forward following the earthquake?

In the midst of this disaster, life goes on. The markets are bustling and kids are going back to school. Port-au-Prince is relatively calm. There are incidents of protests and looting, but those are isolated. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians were made homeless because of the earthquake, and it is likely that they will be living in camps for many months. People still need basic necessities, but in the long term, they need jobs, education, homes, and security.

How does relief work affect a person?

It's a challenging profession. It can be



For Lawren Sinnema, every day brought something different during the days after the earthquake. One day would be spent at the United Nations compound attending meetings with other NGOs, another day he would work in the office on reports for proposals.

About World Relief

World Relief is a Christian relief and development organization based in Baltimore, Maryland. It runs programs around the world, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. World Relief has been working in Haiti for the past seventeen years. Its office in Port-au-Prince was destroyed during the earthquake, but miraculously, all forty staff survived.

With a disaster team on the ground two days after the earthquake, the organization has since been meeting the needs of thousands of earthquake victims through support of food, water, shelter, and health care.

You can learn more about World Relief at the website wr.org

rewarding, but you have to make sacrifices. You have to travel a lot, which makes having a "normal" life at home somewhat difficult. When you travel abroad, there are cultural and language barriers that can add stress. You have to be flexible and have a sense of humor. It can be difficult to work in a disaster area and witness suffering. It's not always easy to process your experiences, because when you return home, people often can't relate to what you experienced.

What should North American Christians know?

I have heard Christians both in Haiti and in the U.S. say that the earthquake is God's judgment on the Haitian people. I disagree. We live in a broken world, and the Haitians are no more deserving of judgment than any of us. There are no easy answers, but I believe God is mourning, too, when he looks over Haiti. He is a God of

mercy and love and, because of that, we can hope for a better future for Haiti.

How long have you been working with World Relief?

I started working with World Relief's Disaster Response Unit in January of 2008. Since that time, I have worked on our programs in Darfur and Eastern Congo. I have been most impacted by the trips I have made to Eastern Congo. Most people don't know that the conflict in Eastern Congo has claimed over five million lives since the mid-1990s. The genocide in Rwanda basically spilled over into Congo, and fighting continues to this day. In particular, women face the worst of the violence. It's an issue that people should be aware of.

What drew you to this organization and this work?

Ever since my time at Dordt, I knew that I wanted to be involved in international work. There are a lot of great organizations doing tremendous work around the world, but I felt called to work with a Christian relief agency. World Relief is very intentional about integrating a Christian mission into the work of reducing poverty and serving the most vulnerable. Poverty is primarily not about a lack of material resources. Poverty is about broken relationships, and World Relief tries to address that in a holistic manner. That appeals to me. It's important for me to work in a place where Christ is at the center of the work.

How did your Dordt education help prepare you for what you are doing today?

At Dordt, I was challenged to think about every subject from a Christian perspective. That has carried over into my career. My education gave me a foundation from which I view the world today. In the relief and development field, there are differing views about the best way to help people, and many of the paradigms are

based on humanist assumptions. The world is still a very confusing place to me. But if you start with a biblical basis, which was emphasized at Dordt, it allows you to think about the major issues of the world in a different, deeper way.

I was a political studies and business major at Dordt. The skills I learned in management, economics, politics, and international relations have proven important in my current role, but most importantly, the emphasis on justice and Christian ethics will always stay with me.

What else you have done since Dordt?

After graduating in 2006, I completed a master's degree in International Relations from Syracuse University. I specialized in non-profit management and global development. As part of that program, I was able to spend two months in South Africa working with entrepreneurs in the townships of Cape Town. After finishing my master's, I took the job with World Relief.

What have you learned that you'd like others to know?

Even before the earthquake, Haiti was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti has received billions of dollars in foreign aid, yet it is poorer than it was fifty years ago. In Haiti, well-intentioned help by foreigners has often been harmful. The rebuilding effort will need to be done differently, with a focus on addressing the structural problems that have trapped Haiti for so long. In thirty-five seconds, Haiti lost sixty percent of its GDP. It will take years to recover.

The latest death toll is around 230,000. A statistic like that means nothing until you hear about the individual stories of loss. In talking with our staff, all have stories of losing family and friends. Some lost children. The unexamined part of this tragedy is the trauma, fear, and loss faced by survivors. Dealing with that may be Haiti's greatest challenge.

Music in Worship

Ellen De Young

From worship history to copyright laws to “song diets,” Dordt’s Music in Worship class prepares musicians to be involved in church music.

“Anyone involved in music should take this class, regardless of their major,” explains Dr. Karen De Mol, the course’s instructor. “When you graduate from college, get a job, show up in a church, and let it be known that you are a musician, you will be drawn into the church’s music program. So equip yourself now.”

For years, Dordt’s music department offered a church music major, but the number of students interested in this major dwindled. The major was cut, but the department still wanted to offer training in church music. So, De Mol and the department condensed three church music courses into one overview course that covers worship and liturgy, history of church music, and church music administration.

Music in Worship was first offered this spring, and it drew both music majors and students who are active in worship in their churches and on Dordt’s campus. “The students all care about this topic, and they are all highly engaged,” De Mol notes.

“I’ve really enjoyed exploring the history of music in worship,” says sophomore Emily Hageman. “Gregorian chant, Genevan psalms, gospel tunes, praise music—the range of music we’ve covered has been thorough and interesting.”

De Mol explains that having a complete knowledge of songs throughout history is important to understand how we worship. “We worship with a church of all places but also of all ages, and the church’s collection of music reflects that rich history.”

In addition to studying history, liturgy, and laws, the course also offers practical application. Five guest presenters have offered their expertise in areas ranging from the organ to the worship ensemble. Students have worked in pairs to write actual worship service liturgies.

DeMol has used her many years of worship planning experience to give helpful advice and insights to her students. Hageman says, “I’ve learned that worship planners do much more than just throw some hymns together. Worship is about creating an environment in which every person in the congregation can worship God as best as they can.”

Student videos promote the work of slum ministries

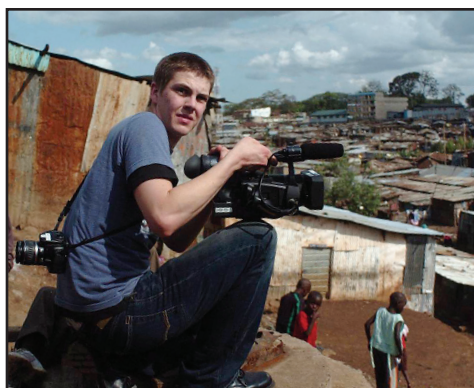
Ellen De Young

What happens when twelve digital media students, equipped with cameras, are sent into Kenyan slums over Christmas break? Five months later, you get three pro bono promotional videos for ministries working in the slums.

On Thursday, April 29, these students shared their films at a public screening.

Because all of these ministries are busy feeding, teaching, and nurturing the people they serve, they have very little time to raise funds or raise their visibility. Dordt’s digital media students are helping tell the stories of these ministries in order to generate support, whether that translates into prayer or donations.

One group of students went to the slum of Mitumba to document the story of Kenyan Pastor Shadrach and his ministry, Rural Evangelistic Ministries. The people living in Mitumba feel like castoffs, and it is Pastor



Dale Vande Griend was one of a dozen students to spend the semester break in Kenya. He will film with Professor Mark Volkers in India this summer.

Shadrach’s mission to change this way of thinking. He says, “To get them out of the slum we must get the slum out of their mind.”

Because the idea of worthlessness is so embedded in the minds of people who live in the slums, changing their perspective is easier said than done.

“What do we do if people don’t want to accept help because of pride or feeling worthless?” asks senior digital media major Danielle Roos.

Pastor Shadrach begins with the kids. “There are so many kids in the slum,” explains Roos. “He starts by providing them with food, shelter, medicine, and love. Pretty soon, the kids bring their parents to the ministry, too, and the whole family starts to live different lives.”

Pastor Shadrach founded his ministry in 2001, and the Mitumba slum, formerly known for its violence, drugs, and sex, has become a much safer and cleaner place to live.

“Pastor Shadrach is doing amazing work,” says Roos. “We hope that our film will spread the word about his ministries and raise support in whatever way possible.”

The team will send their film to Pastor Shadrach, and they also hope to put the film on his ministry’s website: www.remkenya.org.

Marketing class helps local businesses

Ellen De Young

I can honestly say that this is my favorite class that I’ve taken at Dordt,” notes sophomore Sam Hart. His reason? “The Marketing Management class gave me real-life experience that you can’t get from just sitting in a classroom.”

Hart and his classmates were given the opportunity to gain marketing experience by partnering with local and international businesses.

“We spent a couple weeks reviewing the principles of marketing,” explains the course’s instructor, Dale Zevenbergen, “and the rest of the class was dedicated to consulting with these businesses.”

Thirty-one marketing students split into eight groups and teamed with eight businesses, helping them with a variety of marketing projects. “There was a little bit of stress when I first explained this project to the students,” says

Zevenbergen. “They were thinking, ‘Wow. Can we really do this?’ But once they got started they began to really enjoy it.”

One group of students partnered with Sioux Center’s Vander Berg Furniture. Though Vander Berg Furniture has been in existence since 1968, owner Jeff Vander Berg is always looking for ways to improve the business.

“We were asked to put together the contents of a brochure describing various parts of their company,” explains sophomore business major Jessica De Stigter. “We also created a Facebook fan page for advertising and promotions.”

Though most of the marketing projects focused on local businesses, two groups partnered with international organizations.

Mombachito Coffee is a farmer-to-farmer organization that has worked with Nicaraguan farmers to help them become

more productive. A group of Northwestern College students worked with Mombachito last semester, and Dordt students continued their work of developing a marketing plan.

The other international project is based in Mozambique. A group of local poultry farmers is seeking to start a poultry industry in Mozambique to benefit the country’s economy. Because the company is just getting started, the Dordt marketing team helped them create a logo.

“It’s been such a fun variety of projects—cylinders and skid loaders, furniture, a film festival, chickens in Mozambique, and coffee in Nicaragua,” says Zevenbergen.

The response from the businesses to the work of the marketing teams has been positive. “This was a very pleasant experience,” notes Vander Berg. “It is fun to see young people get excited about being involved in the business world. I would love to partner with a marketing team every year.”

Zevenbergen says that other local businesses have shown interest in continuing their work with Dordt’s business students, as well. “My main goal for this project was to give students a great experience, and it seems like they’ve had fun, too” notes Zevenbergen. “This has also been a great way to build a relationship between Dordt and these businesses.”

“This project has shown me that marketing is an area of business I feel very confident in,” explains Hart. “I feel better prepared to enter a marketing internship and to contribute to an organization’s goals.”

Zevenbergen hopes to offer opportunities outside of the classroom for other classes, as well, such as Advertising and Selling or Marketing Research.

Jessica De Stigter and Lauren Winner were two of a team of four students who worked with a local business’s marketing plan as part of a class project.



Nurses screen college community

Ellen De Young

Dordt’s senior nursing students are in a unique position among their peers. While other seniors are just ready to look beyond the classroom and into their professional field, these students are already licensed health care professionals. On Tuesday, March 30, nine senior registered nurses shared their expertise with Dordt’s community by offering a cholesterol screening and a health fair.

“About sixty-five people came through for the health fair, and while that may not seem like a large number, the students were busy nonstop,” notes Mary De Young. De Young works as the Clinical Outreach Coordinator for Dordt’s nursing program and assisted the nursing students in organizing the health fair.

“Part of the senior students’ last big project is to educate the community about promoting health,” explains De Young. “We have a whole community here on Dordt’s campus, so we thought, ‘Why not do something for Dordt’s students, faculty, and staff?’”

The health fair was very informal, consisting of several educational stations tended by the nursing students. The nurses at the event helped educate Dordt’s community on topics such as cholesterol, hand washing, sun damage. Those who came early in the morning had the option of having their cholesterol tested. Others learned how their weight compared with recommendations for their height, age, and gender. Some employees were somewhat chagrined to learn how low the obesity level really is.

In addition to these practical services, the event helped raise the profile of nursing on campus. Dordt’s nursing program is still fairly new, but it is growing rapidly. There are eleven senior nursing students, but the program welcomed nearly thirty students into this year’s freshman class.

Through Dordt’s partnership with St. Luke’s Hospital in Sioux City, the students are able to take most of their classes on Dordt’s campus while getting hands-on experience at the hospital. After four semesters at St. Luke’s, nursing students are



Students and faculty took advantage of the opportunity to test their cholesterol levels and learn about healthy lifestyles. Troy Ellens learns his blood pressure from senior nurse Abbie Horstman.

eligible to earn their associate’s degree and become registered nurses. Many students continue to take classes at Dordt to earn their bachelor’s degree.

Senior nursing student Allison Wesselius works at Royale Meadows Care Center in Sioux Center as a registered nurse while she completes her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Dordt.

“I’m a nurse, but I’m also a teacher,” says Wesselius. “Educating Dordt’s campus

community on health topics we find pertinent was good practice for teaching and communicating with our patients every day at work.”

The response to the health fair was positive. De Young notes, “Various professors said that the health fair was very worthwhile, a staff member suggested that we do this again, and several students commented on how professional it was. Overall, the event was hugely successful.”

Social work students do spring cleaning



Michelle Smith, Erin Mulder, Peter Walvoort, Allie Thomas, and Beth De Kam made up one team of social work spring cleaners, cleaning a house from top to bottom to prepare for a family of new residents.

Dordt social workers cleaned two houses in town this spring. It was part of their effort to raise awareness for Social Work Month.

Each year the students are assigned to come up with events that will give their profession visibility. Knowing that many people who live in poverty have trouble being able to afford cleaning supplies, they decided to hold two spring cleaning Saturdays in April to raise funds for cleaning supplies.

“Food stamps can’t be used for cleaning supplies, and food pantries often don’t stock them,” says Professor Abby Foreman.

The class got sponsors for the hours they spent cleaning, asking for contributions based on the hours they worked and also for donations of cleaning supplies. With the money they raised, the students purchased supplies that will be put into packets and distributed through Mid-Sioux, a local social service agency.

Campus Capsules

Distinguished Scholar Recipients

Twelve Distinguished Scholar awards are given to incoming freshmen each year. Those who earn this \$11,000 award must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75 and a minimum ACT score of 30 or minimum SAT score of 1320. As part of the selection process, each applicant is also asked to write an essay. The awards are renewable for an additional three consecutive years if the recipient maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50. Incoming freshmen who received awards for next year are:

Anderson Clare
Villard, Minnesota
Minnewaska Area High School
Engineering

Benjamin Deaver
Omaha, Nebraska
Omaha Christian Academy
History

Andrew Deelstra
Seattle, Washington
Shoreline Christian School
Digital Media

Samuel De Nooy
Sully, Iowa
Pella Christian High School
Biology

Timothy G. DeVries
Granger, Washington
Sunnyside Christian High School
Engineering

Courtney Dykstra
Lake Worth, Florida
Lake Worth Christian High School
Education

Austin Herrema
Littleton, Colorado
Denver Christian High School
Engineering

Mitchell Nettinga
Hull, Iowa
Boyden-Hull Community School
Engineering

Joshua Nymeyer
Sioux Center, Iowa
Unity Christian High School
Business Administration

Dirk Oudman
Wheatfield, Indiana
Covenant Christian High School
Political Science

Anna Visser
Ingersoll, Ontario
London District Christian Secondary
Music

Brandon M. Wubben
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Sioux Falls Christian High School
Engineering

Internationals prevail in table tennis tourney

Jane Ver Steeg

An international battle of the paddles concluded a semester-long campus-wide ping pong competition. The final eight players represented both students and staff in a league organized by Michael Gorter and Steven Oswald. Gorter and Oswald both made the finals, as did Michael's dad, who is Dean of the Chapel. Filling out the brackets were David Puruolte, Churachandpur Manipur, India; JaeSeung Baek, Seoul, South Korea; Sam Hart, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Matthew Postmus, Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Chris De Jong, Dordt's Director of Career Services and Calling.

The ping pong competition was not the first for Pastor Rod Gorter. As a student at Dordt from 1978-1982, he organized a campus tournament for three years in a row. When asked how he did as a student, he recalls, "I made it to the quarter finals." He added with a smile, "I'm hoping age and wisdom prevail tonight."

All of the residence halls at Dordt have ping pong tables, and North Hall residents held their own competition earlier this year. The North Hall champion won the right to play Pastor Gorter. That match-up resulted in father and son on opposite sides of the table, with Michael prevailing over his dad.

Leading up to the playoffs were several weeks of ladder league play, with roughly thirty players moving up the player list when they won or down the roster when they lost. "It's a mental game that relieves stress," noted Michael.

Thursday night it came down to the best of the best.

"These guys got fire!" remarked enthusiastic spectator Casey Hawks. "It's like a crazy person against a crazy person. Their hand-eye coordination, like how do they do that?"

The competition was intense, with at least one cracked ball and an overheard remark, "Oh, that's gonna leave a mark."

In the end, David Puruolte took home the trophy, with JaeSeung Baek runner-up.



A team of people worked hard this year to make chapel a more central part of weekly life and more prophetic in its message.

Making chapel central

Sally Jongsma

It's hard to explain what happens in worship," says Pastor Aaron Baart ('99). Baart, who is pastor of Bridge of Hope Ministries in Sioux Center, led the majority of this year's chapel services on campus. "We become a different community because of what we share together. That shared experience subtly reshapes individuals, institutions, and our cultural mindset," he says.

"There are few other events on campus where everyone comes together around a shared experience," says Associate Provost for Co-Curricular Affairs Bethany Schuttinga, who led a team of people, which included Baart, assigned to rethink chapel last summer.

As a result of the group's work, big changes occurred. Chapel now meets once a week instead of twice, but average attendance has increased from less than a hundred to more than 700. That dramatic change came because a team of people stopped to ask some basic questions and set a new direction. Some of those questions were: Who is chapel for? What should happen? Is it important? What are the values we share? What do we need to hear together? How does it fit with our vision for education? What are students wrestling with?

"We can too easily assume that because we have grown up in Christian homes we automatically know what it means to be disciples," says Schuttinga. She wants chapel to help students address issues in their community and individual lives that don't often get talked about or can be difficult to talk about. This goal fits with the college's commitment as a residential community to educate students in all parts of their lives. The foundation upon which Dordt's academic curriculum rests is also the foundation for the things students learn outside of class.

"If faith is worth living and dying for, we and our students need to know what difference it makes in all parts of our lives," says Campus Ministries Coordinator Lindsay Vladimirov. "Students are looking to be inspired, to be challenged, and to go out and

make a difference in the world."

Baart has been challenging and inspiring throughout the school year. He started by thinking about chapel topics he wished he'd heard in college as a way to address as concretely as possible the concerns and needs of students. During the first semester, he chose the theme "Your Truer Reflection," focusing on Christians in today's world, looking first at whose we are and then how we live in regard to such things as worship, technology, diverse peoples, politics, sexuality, and more. During the second semester, his theme was "Apprenticing Jesus." In his direct and concrete way, he challenged those attending chapel to make choices, spend their money, use the Internet, and vote as disciples of Christ, not out of cultural habit.

"I recall the choices I struggled with in college. It's such a formative time," Baart says. He thinks that worship is sometimes too passive-aggressive and not prophetic enough, so he tries to speak directly and honestly. Preaching shouldn't just reinforce what people want to hear; it should paint a picture that helps people see that the radical nature of Christian living frees them to live what they believe. Baart also provides online study questions and suggestions for additional Bible readings that allow students to think further about the topics presented.

"Prophetic truth disturbs your world, yet makes you want more of it; it kicks you in the gut, and yet feels good," he adds. "We shouldn't be afraid of the truth of the gospel. God is a big God and isn't threatened by our honest attempts to serve him."

The team approach to reshaping chapel has continued. Baart,

Vladimirov, and Dean of the Chapel Rod Gorter meet weekly to plan a service with a simple format that they want to be rich in meaning and seamlessly run. Vladimirov selects songs that fit with Baart's message and that prepare worshippers to hear the Word. Hours of planning and rehearsing go into each service. Vladimirov, an accomplished pianist and singer, is joined by fellow musicians and staff members Robert Taylor on drums and Todd Monstma on guitar, along with student violinist Nate Vruwink and bass player Adam Westenbroek. Other student and staff musicians also participate occasionally.

Team work has happened even further behind the scenes. Vladimirov, who grew up in a more charismatic style of worship, has spent time discussing chapel with Dr. Karen De Mol, a music professor steeped in a more historic and liturgical style of worship. Together they've challenged each other to think in different ways, and they've learned from each other.

"I truly enjoy going to chapel. It is a time for me to take a break from the busyness of school and homework," says Freshman Kyra Kats. "As a music major, I love watching Lindsay play the piano and lead worship, because that is something I would love to do in the future in my church. I almost always am able to apply something that Pastor Baart says to my life. I sense the passion in Pastor Baart's life, and the way in which he enjoys and really cares about the time he spends leading us in chapel."

Whether it is the complete package or whether they're especially drawn to the message or to the music, many students, faculty and staff have expressed appreciation for chapel, in words and, more importantly, by their attendance.

At the final chapel of the year, students and faculty were "Sent forth to Serve" by pastor Aaron Baart.



Adamses honored upon retirement

In April, Dr. Charles and Dr. Pamela Adams were both honored for their years of service to Dordt College. Both were given emeritus status at a board/faculty dinner celebrating their retirement.

The Adamses, together, taught at Dordt College for more than fifty years. Charles began teaching—and began the engineering program—in 1979. Pam began teaching in the education department in 1988.

“I first met Charles when he was teaching at Eastern Christian High. After our conversation I remember thinking, ‘That’s the kind of person we should bring into the Dordt College faculty,’” recalls former president Dr. John Hulst, who, throughout his presidency, appreciated Charles’ perspective-driven leadership.

Charles served as chair of the engineering department, chair of the faculty, and Dean of the Natural Sciences. He wrote numerous Plumbines, which were recorded and broadcast on Dordt’s radio station, KDCR, in which he tried to show concretely what difference it makes to think and live as a Christian. He also gave many lectures on technology.

Pam served as chair of the education department and Director of Graduate Education in addition to teaching education classes. She also was a regular contributor to the *Christian Educator’s Journal*.

Charles and Pam have been on leave since February of 2008, when they were involved in a serious car accident in which they sustained multiple injuries, including brain injuries. After months of hospitalization and rehabilitation, they now live in retirement in their home in Sioux Center.

“I clearly remember a comment made by Pam when I visited with both



Charles Adams

Charles and Pam in the hospital,” says Dr. Rockne McCarthy, the Vice President for Academic Affairs during many of the years they taught. “I think in many ways it summarizes the way they view their lives together and their calling. Pam indicated that the accident threatened their great joy in serving Dordt and in contributing to building the kingdom. For both of them, their work with students and colleagues, their research and writing, and their leadership roles on campus have been an expression of their deep commitment to Christian education and Dordt College.”

Both Charles and Pam Adams contributed much to Dordt College and both have had a significant impact on the students they taught.

Charles’ colleagues and former students point to Colossians 1:15-17 as a passage that embodied for him—and now for them—what it meant to be an engineer: “He is the



Pam Adams

image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

“He wanted us to acknowledge that all things are sustained and held together by God. Charles always placed a strong emphasis on the antithesis,” says colleague and former student Dr. Ethan Brue. “You’re either going to serve the Lord or idols. There’s no in between,” he’d say often. That is Charles’ legacy to his students.

“It was my honor to serve with Charles on the Academic Council,” says McCarthy. “I could always count on him to ask prospective faculty critical questions related to their Christian perspective on teaching, learning, and scholarship. He was

always willing to write the first draft of an academic initiative or issue, whether it be biotechnology, academic organization, or collegiate sports. His depth of foundational thinking allowed him to range over such a wide field of issues without becoming superficial or trite. And his gentle humor often made tedious meetings more bearable.”

Pam was as committed to helping her students develop a Christian understanding of their study as Charles was, notes McCarthy. “She worked tirelessly to improve student teaching and the quality of primary and secondary education in Northwest Iowa and beyond. Her organizational abilities, high professional standards, and concern for assisting graduate students in achieving their goals resulted in a stronger and more vibrant graduate education program.”

“When there was a task to be done, Pam was there to volunteer. She took on the role of chair of the department and later Director of Graduate Education when they needed to be filled. She was always willing to do more than her share,” says colleague Dr. Dennis Vander Plaats.

Pam was also appreciated for her compassionate care for her students. She got to know them well and cared deeply about their learning.

“Charles and Pam came to Dordt with a dream of witnessing with their lives and work to the power of a comprehensive view of Christian commitment and service,” says McCarthy. “While the tragic accident cut short their careers at the college, their legacy continues in the lives of their students and in the inspiration they’ve provided to colleagues who continue to work in the education and engineering departments and throughout the college.”

In the words of former students

Dr. Adams was easily one of my favorite professors at Dordt. Many professors are either intelligent or enjoyable to spend time with, teach well or challenge and exhort their students to follow Christ deeply and passionately. But I’ve seen evidence of each of those in Dr. Adams’ life.

His teaching was among some of the most lucid and organized of any courses I’ve taken.

His classes were a continual challenge and required significant self-motivation. He was never content with students simply regurgitating either problem-solving techniques or philosophical ideas. One exam question that I recall went something to the effect of, “Explain voltage in a way that a fourth-grader could understand it.”

I don’t think I’ll ever forget his admonition to freshmen engineers: “Do not worry about tomorrow [or keeping a 4.0]. Each day has enough worries of its own.” Remembering that Jesus’ words have application to me, today, has helped me through many life challenges.

He never (in my experience) made his students feel like they were beneath him.

Dr. Adams always challenged our thinking. He wasn’t willing to follow the



Dr. Charles and Dr. Pamela Adams were honored for their many years of teaching and service to Dordt College and its students at an end-of-the-year dinner with employees and the Board of Trustees. In a video tribute, colleagues and students expressed their thanks and appreciation for decades of dedicated service.

crowd and think like the status quo. He strove to find Truth, even when many students would disagree.

He challenged me deeply about what it means to do my work as a Christian: I can’t leave my loyalty to Christ at the doorposts of my employer nor can I

assume that being faithful to my King only applies to “spiritual” things or direct ministry. Following Christ is something that affects everything I do, and part of my calling as a Christian is to understand what that is.

David Alan Hjelle (2003)

Professor Adams was one of my favorite professors. She was so knowledgeable and had such a love for children’s literature. I remember her as being consistent, fair, and caring. Professor Adams loved God. This was very evident through her teaching and her interaction with her students.

What I remember most about Pam was when, as a sophomore, I took a test in her class. After the test, I realized that I had totally messed up an answer to one of the questions. Being the perfectionist that I am, I was devastated, so I went to her to talk to her about it. I ended up bawling! She gave me a big hug and a smile and then gave me my test right there in her office. She let me erase my answer to that question and gave me ten minutes to redo it. I will never forget that measure of grace and still think about it from time to time when I’m teaching my first graders.

Pam had a tremendous impact on how I strive to be the best Christian teacher I can. I wish her God’s richest blessings in her retirement.

Andrea (Leys) Wieringa (1993)

Moving On

It's what college prepares students to do: move on. So, even though there are always some tearful goodbyes by both those leaving and those staying, it's a time of celebration. This year, as in every other, family and friends gathered to send graduates off to the next stage of their lives. Where each graduate will be next year, no one knows, but professors and professional staff have tried to do everything they could to prepare students for the transition.

Sally Jongsma

Some students know exactly what career they want to pursue from the day they arrive on campus; others take time getting to that point. A few leave unsure. But for all, the door to Chris DeJong's office is open. DeJong is the Director of Career Services and Calling, and his approach to his job grows out of his Reformed understanding of vocation.

"We've all been given gifts, and we're all called to serve," he says. "Our task is to be faithful to God's call and find where these two meet." He points to a book by Lee Hardy titled *Fabric of Faithfulness* as a helpful resource, noting that some students read it in the senior capstone course Calling, Task, and Culture.

Many students have a rudimentary understanding of this concept, he notes, yet feel a tension between it and the pragmatic cultural assumption that one goes to college to get a better job and earn more money. In his

conversations with students, he helps them sort out this tension.

"People are the most satisfied in their work when they can use their gifts to meet needs in society," DeJong says. He finds that conversations about gifts and interests as ways to serve take a burden from many students. As a result, their education becomes less a pragmatic means to an end and more a way to prepare for what they want and feel called to.

DeJong meets with anyone who wants help thinking about their future plans. He sometimes starts with a college catalog, asking them to cross off majors that have no appeal for them. They move through a conversation about gifts, interests, and needs that helps students narrow their choices. DeJong then encourages



Chris DeJong

them to take courses in majors that seem most interesting to them.

"I'm not opposed to using tests to determine where students' interests lie, but I've found that a directed conversation often gets us there quicker," he says. He feels that test results are often perceived as a prescription for what a person should do, but knows it's not that simple. Test results can confirm and make one think about new possibilities, but they do not give the one answer. Many students leave his office more satisfied with a conversation that guides them through their interests, gifts, and needs because it helps them think about what they are interested in.

"Students do best when they feel passionately about what they are learning," he says, citing the example of one student who came to college because it was the expected next step in his education. He admitted to being completely unmotivated, and by the end of first semester, he was on probation with a GPA of 1.5. The threat of losing thousands of dollars in scholarships

plus weekly meetings with DeJong to talk about what he wanted from his education brought his GPA back to over 3.0. He's working hard and enjoying his studies.

Other students DeJong meets are very motivated but still benefit from DeJong's approach and expertise. Brent and Becca Van Schepen appreciated their meetings with DeJong as they planned where they would go following graduation.

"He was extremely helpful," says Brent, who, through a series of mock interviews in which DeJong portrayed different kinds of interviewers, learned how to respond and how he should present himself. Because DeJong routinely works with all education majors, Becca found out how helpful it was to have help creating a resume and participating in mock interviews. She encouraged Brent to take advantage of DeJong's expertise as well. The Van Schepens, who initially thought they might teach overseas, in part as a result of their interactions with DeJong, have decided that Brent will serve in a business setting closer to

home and Becca will look for a teaching job nearby.

Do students have a harder time deciding on a career path and life direction today? DeJong doesn't know, but one thing is certain: They have more choices than in decades past. Sometimes sorting out those options with someone is just what they need.

DeJong recalls asking his father what made him decide to become an engineer. His dad replied, "My parents told me 'you should become an engineer.'" DeJong isn't sure it happens that way much anymore, although he knows that parents and family members often play a role in pointing out strengths. He's been happy to have had such a role for many of this year's graduating seniors. For some he's spent hours in conversation, for others he's coached them on resume writing and done mock interviews. For some who are undecided about a major, he's served as advisor; for others he's simply offered information that they can use as they wish. For all, he wishes this year's graduates God's blessing as they move on.



Joel Veldkamp

Joel Veldkamp expects to be teaching English at the Episcopal Training Center in Cairo, Egypt, next year. He'll also be learning Arabic. The position allows him to spend another year in a culture and with a people he came to love during his semester on the Middle East Studies Program (MESP).

"I always wanted to study abroad, and I'm captivated by the Middle East," he says. Palestinian Christians have been an inspiration to him, and the MESP did a good job of immersing him in the culture.

"I've reimagined so many Bible stories after living in the area—like the Christmas story and its setting." Living in the Middle East also made him see the world differently.

"I've learned to see politics less as an American or as a conservative and more as a Christian," he says, noting that was not the case when he came to college.

Following his year in Cairo, Veldkamp hopes to attend graduate school to study international relations. He's been interested in politics since the 2000 election when he was in middle school, but his time abroad has made him see the complexity of today's world and understand that different people see issues differently. He still plans to follow his long-held dream of writing, whether that is about politics, world events, or even fiction. (See his article titled "The Heights" in the April issue of *Perspective: A Journal of Reformed Thought* (www.rca.org/Page.aspx?pid=6516))



Hani Yang

Hani Yang, Lord willing, will join the Los Angeles non-profit agency Good Neighbors. The organization sponsors children from Africa and Latin America, and Yang, who speaks Spanish, will help manage the financial support the organization receives to help children.

A communication major with a digital media emphasis, Yang has wanted to work for a nonprofit agency since high school. While on the Los Angeles Film Studies Program last semester, she interviewed for the position and was impressed with their compassionate approach. She begins the week after graduation.

The daughter of Korean missionaries in Mexico, Yang came to Dordt for digital media because she wanted to make documentaries. She's learned that she enjoys the production and management aspect of working with and for people more than the technical media production.

Yang, who plans eventually to go to graduate school—and then maybe to seminary, says "I want always to learn and to live what I believe." She admits that she was tempted to take another major to stay at Dordt where she's been very involved in clubs and committees as well as events like Justice Week. She appreciates the fact that through both her classes and her extracurricular activities, she's learned to think discerningly about the way she'll live her life in the years ahead.

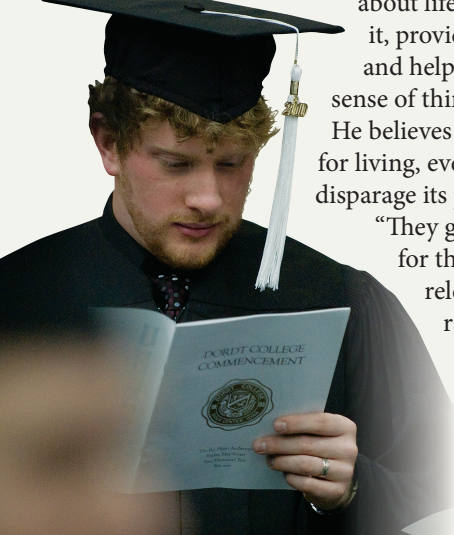
Daniel Den Boer

Daniel Den Boer will enroll in the Master's of Theological Studies Program at Duke University next fall. Den Boer, whose goal is to teach theology on the collegiate or university level rather than study theology to become a pastor, was looking for a program that would expose him to the work of a wide range of theological perspectives.

Den Boer's plan to teach theology has taken him along a winding path. He began college as a secondary education history major with a theater arts minor. He soon decided that he enjoyed learning history more than he thought he'd enjoy teaching it, so he dropped his education major. Then he took Theology 101.

"It was the most interesting course I had ever taken," he says. He dropped his theater minor and added a theology minor. After more courses, he changed his major from history to theology and added philosophy as a minor.

"Theology and philosophy talk about life as we experience it, providing a vision and helping you make sense of things," he says. He believes it is relevant for living, even though some disparage its practicality. "They give a framework for thinking and so are relevant for a wide range of jobs," he says.



Michaela Groot

Michaela Groot will teach middle school humanities at Sekolah Pelita Harapan in Jakarta, Indonesia, next fall.

"This opportunity is truly a dream come true for me," she says. "For years I have felt God calling me to teach middle school and to consider teaching in Asia."

Groot knew she wanted to be a teacher before she came to Dordt, yet she says she came with an open mind, eager to experience new things. Last fall, she did some research on schools in other parts of the world and felt a pull towards Asia. Teaching in Nicaragua this past semester reaffirmed her desire to teach in a culture different than her own.

"Throughout the past four years, I have been challenged to think about what it means to be a Christian in our world today and how, as a teacher, I have a huge responsibility to demonstrate and encourage Christ-like living," she says. "I have been challenged to think about what I believe and to more fully understand those who think differently than I do." In addition to her semester in Nicaragua, Groot has traveled to France as a part of her French minor and to Colorado with PLIA.

"It will feel wonderful to walk in the graduation ceremony and finally say that I am a teacher. I am very excited about the plans God has for my future."



Kalen Van Maanen

Kalen Van Maanen may have benefitted from the current poor economy. He'll begin work in June for the Office of the Comptroller of Currency as an assistant national bank examiner. Based in Denver, he'll travel around the western United States, visiting banks to make sure they are following the rules and regulations prescribed for them.

Van Maanen, like many entering freshmen, did not declare a major when he enrolled, but by taking a variety of courses and talking to friends and professors, he found he enjoyed studying finance.

He credits his professors with instilling in him the conviction that being a Christian affects everything he does—he can't ignore it or compromise his beliefs and, in fact, it drives his commitment to help ensure a safe and sound financial system.

Kristina De Graaf

Kristina De Graaf has taken a position as an auditor with Ernst & Young, LLP in Des Moines. An internship with EY in Minneapolis last summer led to the permanent job offer. Although she wasn't even sure about her major when she came to college, she says she's been blessed with great opportunities and experiences that helped prepare her for this position.

The experience was so much more than she expected that she finds it difficult to explain the many ways she's grown these last four years. Her college experiences and opportunities have been many: Concert Choir, a semester in the Netherlands, a service trip to Belize, PLIA, small group Bible studies, and years chock-full of unforgettable memories.

"I am so thankful that God brought me here for these years. There were so many opportunities to grow academically, professionally, spiritually, etc. While some roll their eyes every time they hear a mention of "every square inch," I am thankful for a university whose philosophy is to prepare students in every way they can for a life of service to God. And the deeply Christian friends I have made here have made this experience invaluable to me.

I'm also grateful for the small things—for professors who pray before class or exams, for the ethical dilemmas we discuss, for the opportunity to serve on committees with professors or go on small trips together. I'm grateful for faculty and staff who do more than just go a little out of their way in order to truly get to know us and join with us in pursuing our hopes, ambitions, and dreams. I am who I am because of so many strong college friends, challenging classes, and dedicated professors.

Like so many others, De Graaf feels both excitement and sadness as she graduates.

Defenders claim several top finishes

Mike Byker

Sports Information Director

Track and Field

The Defender track and field team qualified five relay teams and several individuals for the NAIA National Championship Meet through the GPAC Meet. Mark Eekhoff (senior; Manhattan, Montana) and Josiah Luttjeboer (junior; Belleville, Ontario) each qualified in the men's 800 meters and along with David Christensen (senior; Waconia, Minnesota) and Brent Van Schepen (senior; Edgerton, Minnesota) qualified for the 4 x 800. Nic Pfeifle (freshman; Edgerton, Minnesota) qualified for the national meet in the 200 and 400 and along with Trevor Wolterstorff (freshman; Sioux Center, Iowa), Alex Henderson (sophomore; Irving, Texas) and Luttjeboer qualified for the 4 x 400 race.

A large contingent of women also qualified for the national meet in Marion, Indiana. ► **Jenna Brouwer** (sophomore; London, Ontario) qualified in the 100 and 200 meters and ran with Briana Wubben (freshman; Clara City, Minnesota), Crystal Vander Zee (sophomore; South Holland, Illinois) and Sarah Franje (senior; New Sharon, Iowa) in the 4 x 100 meters. Wubben also qualified in the 100 meter hurdles. The 4 x 400 team of Kari Van Beek (sophomore; Sanborn, Iowa), Kaitlin Troost (freshman; Parma, Idaho), Kendra Kroeze (freshman; Hull, Iowa) and Brouwer competed at the national meet and the 4 x 800 team of Sierra Zomer (senior; Corsica, South Dakota), Merissa Harkema (freshman; Hudsonville, Michigan), Tara Postma (freshman; Gallup, New Mexico) and Nichole Duncan (freshman; Hartley, Iowa) also qualified for the four-day national meet. This women's 4 x 800 meter relay team also won the GPAC title with a time of 9:35.43 at the meet in Hastings, Nebraska on May 1.



▲ Sarah Seymour

Golf

The Dordt golf team finished their season in early May with the conclusion of the GPAC Qualifier which is a four-round event that spans the fall and spring seasons. The Defenders were eighth in the 13-team field and placed one golfer, Jordan Janz (junior; Aurora, Colorado), in the top-10, with a sixth place finish of 313 over the four rounds. Janz earned All-GPAC honors with his finish. Janz was Dordt's top golfer with a season average of 76.2 per event and had six finishes in the top-ten out of 10 events this season. Ryan Kamp (sophomore; Tinley Park, Illinois) hovered around an 80-stroke average all season and ended the season at 80.30 and four top-25 finishes during the season.

Baseball

The Defender baseball team entered the final weekend of the season in the hunt for a berth in the GPAC post-season tournament but losses kept them out of the field. The Defenders recorded a 12-27 record and an 8-16 overall mark. **Travis Feekes** ► (senior; Sioux Center, Iowa) ended his career among the career leaders at Dordt in hits with 141 (fourth place); runs with 104 (second place); singles with 107 (second place) and triples with six (third place). Fellow senior Josh Bowers (senior; Centennial, Colorado) ended his career with 30 doubles which ranks second all-time and Bryan Diemer (senior; McBain, Michigan) was eleventh all-time in innings pitched with 139 2/3 innings pitched.

Patrick Sinnema (junior; Manhattan, Montana) earned honorable mention from the Great Plains Athletic Conference after going 5-3 this season with a 5.62 earned run average and he had 36 strikeouts in 57 2/3 innings.

Softball

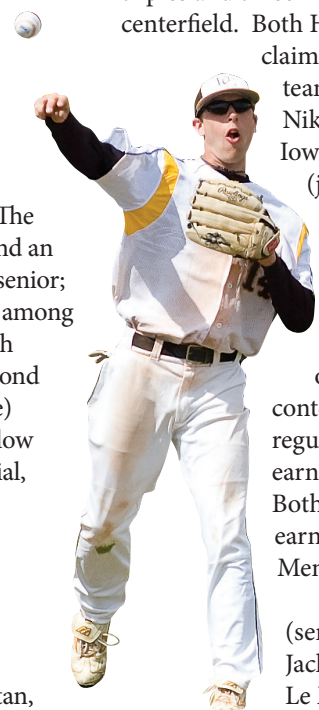
The Dordt College softball team banged out an 18-18 regular season record and a 14-10 GPAC record heading into their second straight conference tournament berth. That berth ended with a pair of one run losses on the first day of the tournament.

Sarah Seymour (junior; San Diego, California) led the team with eight homeruns, a batting average of .411 and 35 runs batted in. She also scored 30 runs and had six doubles with five triples. Seymour was accorded Player-of-the-Year Honors from the GPAC in balloting done by the conference coaches.

Kassandra Heynen (junior; Boyden, Iowa) clubbed four homeruns and had a .390 batting average with 27 runs batted in while Megan Huizenga (sophomore; Zeeland, Michigan) batted .387 with a team high 10 doubles. She also had two triples and three homeruns while playing centerfield. Both Heynen and Huizenga claimed all-GPAC second-

team honors. Amanda Nikkel (junior; Urbandale, Iowa) and Amber Soodsma (junior; Hudsonville, Michigan) handled the bulk of the pitching chores, with Nikkel going 8-6. She had an earned run average of 1.23 in conference contests. Soodsma had a 9-9 regular season mark and an earned run average of 2.21. Both Nikkel and Soodsma earned all-GPAC Honorable Mention.

Becca Hengeveld (senior; Sheldon, Iowa) and Jaclyn Ver Mulm (senior; Le Mars, Iowa) played their final games for the Defenders this spring. Hengeveld had 90 hits in three seasons for the Defenders, and Ver Mulm had 106 hits and a career record 63 bases on balls.



Employment Opportunities at Dordt College

Current Openings

➡ www.dordt.edu/employment

Go online to find the most current openings for Dordt College positions. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vita/resume.

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.



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When the season began this fall, none of the returning players even dreamed they would earn a trip to nationals again this year. They spent most of the season juggling lines to find combinations that worked. Everyone's willingness to teach and learn made all the difference.

Young Blades team makes surprise trip to the nationals

Ashlee Stallinga

After graduating twelve players from last year's hockey team, this season started cold for the Blades. However, the young team with low expectations managed to earn themselves a Spring Break in Florida for their third straight trip to Nationals.

"We had to start from scratch," Coach Bill Elgersma said. "We hoped to win eight games—that was optimistic."

Senior Jake Esselink shared the same low expectations.

"At the start of the season, we were hoping just to make Regionals," he said.

The beginning of the season went as expected.

"The season started really badly," Esselink said, referring in particular to the road trip to Michigan for games against Calvin College and Hope College.

"[Senior Nate] Woudstra had a bruised knee, so we went to Calvin without him," Elgersma said. "We got thumped."

The Clash in the Corn Tournament didn't seem like it was going to go any better.

"After a 9-3 loss to Wyoming at the Clash in the Corn, we had a pointed chat as a team," Elgersma said. "I had to ask the guys, 'What is your personal responsibility on this team?' We had been so deep for so long that they didn't have to worry about it before this season."

In the next game, they beat Colorado.

Then, the final game in the Clash in the Corn Tournament was a 6-5 loss to Grand Valley.

"That team is number one in the North, which is a tough region," Elgersma said. "That proved we were capable—our mental approach changed."

The Blades won three of the four games they had following the tournament. The third win came against Wyoming, 4-1 at home. That game also marked the team's eighth win of the season—but they didn't stop there.

Their next win came over the Iowa State



Nate Woudstra was a valuable goal scorer for all four of his years on the team, gaining recognition in the Pacific Region.

Cyclones.

"In that game, the younger guys started figuring out their roles, and started playing better defense," Esselink said.

On February 19, the team headed to the regional playoffs in Las Vegas.

"In Vegas, we wanted to play Wyoming again," Elgersma said. In the first game, the team played the Air Force. In early November, they had dropped a game 9-5 against that team.

"We played poorly the first time," Elgersma said. But in the Regional game, the Blades took a 6-4 victory to move on to the second round. The win inspired the team.

"Between the second and third periods of the Air Force game, we started talking about Nationals—we didn't realize until then that it was possible," Elgersma said. "It was a testament to how we changed. In September, no one thought we stood a chance."

The second round of Regionals brought the Blades their desired opponent.

"In the first period against Wyoming, we knew we were going to win," Elgersma said. "They knew it too, and they just got out of our way."

The final score was again 4-1 in favor of the Blades, and the team headed to Nationals

once again.

The National tournament was in Florida over Spring Break. The Blades went 0-3 on the trip, with losses to Florida Gulf Coast, Farmingdale State, and Davenport.

But to the Blades, the season was still a success.

"We weren't even expected to make it. Going for the third year in a row—it was a lot of fun. It's good to play high caliber hockey."

But now they're looking to next year, after graduating four more seniors, including Esselink.

"Other teams are scared of Esselink," Elgersma said. "He's big, he's skilled, and he hits hard. With opponents, if they're big, you don't want them to be skilled. If they're skilled, you don't want them to be big. And you never want them to hit hard." The team will feel the loss of not only Esselink, but three other seniors: Nate Woudstra, Todd Bakker, and Ted Gibbons.

"Woudstra is a natural goal scorer," Elgersma said. "Bakker is a goal scorer and set up man. Gibbons has great reflexes. We're losing our goal scorers and biggest defenseman."

Though the loss of these players might be cause for concern, the team learned from this year, and they aren't going to worry too much.

"Are we dead in the water?" Elgersma asked. Then he answered his own question: "We have a tradition here. We'll find ways to go. Someone always comes in. We might look different; we might have to play different."

Jordan Janz, who will be a senior next season, is prepared to take the lead.

"There are a lot of question marks, but we're hoping for a strong rookie class," he said. "I've been to Nationals three times, and Jonny [Gesink] has been there twice, so we'll have veteran leadership at the top."

Before he leaves, Esselink offers Janz his advice: "The focus for next year's seniors should be to keep it fun—don't get too crazy. I don't know if they'll make Nationals; but I hope they do."

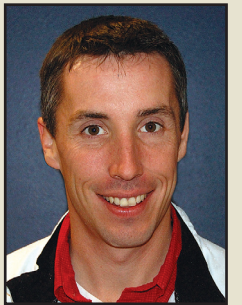
Women's golf will start in fall

With a new 18-hole golf course in town, we thought it was a good time to begin a women's golf team," says Athletic Director Glenn Bouma. Bouma also notes that with the addition of a football team for men, the college must add another sport for women. Dordt already fields a men's golf team, so women's golf was a natural choice.

"We're looking to create a competitive program," says Coach

Matt Nice, the golf pro at The Ridge, Sioux Center's new 18-hole course.

"I think it will be



Matt Nice

an exciting opportunity for high school students to get in at the ground floor level and help build a program. We'll have a lot of fun and will create a great team environment."

The women will benefit from coaching by Nice and his assistant, Kenny Hartzel, both PGA pros, with experience teaching the sport. Nice has been recruiting this spring for a team that will begin competition next fall. He is also talking to several recruits for 2011.

"You don't need a lot of people to start a golf team," says Bouma. "We realize it will take a little time to develop, but are happy to be able to offer the benefits of being part of a team experience to women who want to play golf."

Stallinga awarded scholarship

Ashlee Stallinga, a junior from Lansing, Illinois, was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Greater Sioux City Press Club after submitting an essay and five additional pieces of journalistic writing. In addition to her workstudy job writing for the Dordt College Athletics Department, Ashlee is also the editor of Dordt's student newspaper, *The Diamond*. Ashlee is an English Literature and Journalism Independent Studies major and was encouraged to apply for the scholarship by two of her professors.

Community remembers Russell Maatman

Dr. Russell Maatman passed away on March 26, 2010. What follows is part of the eulogy given by Dr. Carl E. Zylstra.

As he himself never forgot, Russell Maatman was born in Chicago in 1923, just fifteen years after the last time the Chicago Cubs won a World Series.

Russ Maatman also remembered every presidential campaign during his lifetime—ever since that day in 1928 when, as a four-year-old, his father held him on his shoulders at a Chicago train depot to see Republican candidate Herbert Hoover during a whistle stop campaign appearance. He would have to wait another twenty-four years to finally see another Republican elected in 1952.

More important, though, Russell Maatman arrived in Sioux Center, Iowa, in 1963, just eight years after Dordt College had been founded. His lifetime of dedication and service spanned eighty-five percent of the history of Dordt College.

That loyalty born of conviction and dedication to his Lord Jesus Christ marks the legacy we celebrate.

What led a thirty-four-year-old successful industrial researcher, teacher, and university professor at one of the South's most prestigious educational institutions, Ole Miss, to pack up his young family and move to a fledgling college, literally in the cornfields of Northwest Iowa, to carry his



Russell Maatman

National Science Foundation research to a college that had barely even begun a science program and did not yet even grant four-year degrees?

The answer was in the huffy retort he gave me when, as a young Ph.D. from Princeton Seminary, I asked him, "Tell me Russ, if we believe that our calling as Reformed Christians is to make the greatest impact for the kingdom of Christ that we can, then shouldn't we encourage our brightest youth to forgo education at places like Calvin and Dordt and head off to the elite schools like

Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Chicago, and Stanford where they will meet the movers and shakers of the next generation and be networked into the power structures that seem to run our society and our world?"

That was one of the few times I heard Russell Maatman sputter. Close to speechless, he replied simply, "It seems to me that if we believe that Christ-centered education is the only way to faithfully explore God's world, discern its inner workings, and prepare for service in his kingdom, then we'd better just be faithful and trust that God will honor that faithfulness with the results and impact that he wants to bring."

That's why Russell Maatman dedicated his life to ensuring that Dordt College was the best it could be as a Reformed Christian institution of higher education. Career and prestige notwithstanding, he and his family came to Iowa because this is where God asked him to work—and he trusted that God would honor that commitment.

And he has. An early generation of Dordt College pre-med students were mentored by Maatman. Dordt alumni doctors and researchers dot our country because of their collaborations with Dr. Maatman. His colleagues were inspired by his example and administrative leadership, and thousands of Dordt College alumni have had their eyes opened to the wonders of God's creation as seen not just through the eyes of their faith

but, as Professor Maatman would insist, as viewed in the illuminating light of Sacred Scripture itself.

Russell Maatman was one of the first to sell me on the value and potential of Reformed Christian higher education as expressed at Dordt College, and he helped convince me to play a role at Dordt College. He quietly and behind the scenes served as mentor, advisor, and friend throughout my years of service at Dordt College even though he by then he was Professor Emeritus.

We'll remember Russell Maaman for his annual conviction that this might be the year that the Cubs would finally win the pennant and for being one of the most thoughtfully diehard Republicans most of us are likely ever to have met. But more importantly, because of him, we better understand what he understood so clearly—that the Sovereign Lord of all creation is the Sovereign Savior of all he has made. We, as the beneficiaries of his saving grace, really have no choice but to faithfully explore his world in the light of his Word, diligently serve his coming kingdom in whatever position he has placed us and with whatever gifts he has given us, and then trust him to bring the results that will finally give all the honor to his name.

Russell Maatman now rests in the peace of his Savior. Ours is the task that remains. Soli Deo Gloria. To God alone be all the Glory.

FACULTY NEWS

Communication instructor **Kae Van Engen** was one of five people who recently completed the training required for international listening certification at the 31st annual convention of the *International Listening Association* (ILA) held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Van Engen presented her listening capstone project as part of a panel discussion. Her research focused on developing an undergraduate listening course that would fit within a collegiate communication curriculum. **Dr. Charles Veenstra**, professor of communication, also participated in the association's board meetings at the annual convention.



Kae Van Engen

History Professor **David Zwart's** article "For the Next Generation: Dutch Protestant Church Commemorations in North America, 1960-1980" will appear in a special volume of the *Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische Geschiedenis* (*Journal of Social and Economic History*) The issue will deal with Dutch emigrants living in various parts of the world. Zwart describes congregational commemorations of Dutch immigrants and descendants living in the United States and Canada in the 1960s and 1970s, suggesting that these commemorations passed on faith and migration stories to the next generation.

Dr. Leah Zuidema presented a paper titled "Challenges of Stance and Strategy: Pre-service Teachers and the Struggle to Write" on May 1 at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting. Zuidema examined how teacher-authors struggle in their beginning attempts to write for publication—and how they

Craig Stiemsma awarded Ph. D.

Craig Stiemsma, a professor in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department, recently defended his dissertation, earning his doctorate in early April.

"It was a fascinating program," Stiemsma says, describing the variety of practical courses he took throughout his program, courses that helped him do a better job of such things as budgeting for his women's basketball team, revising his syllabi, and better integrating technology into his teaching and coaching.

For his dissertation Stiemsma studied "Job Satisfaction of College Coaches in Small Faith-Based Colleges." He found that the two items



Craig Stiemsma

that gave coaches the most job satisfaction were the opportunity to work with young people and the enjoyment that comes from working with a team. Non-coaching job responsibilities were the most significant barrier to job satisfaction.

Coaches also drew job satisfaction from working in a faith-based institution. Coaches at these institutions usually realize and accept that coaching positions at smaller colleges require other job responsibilities.

Society. Schaap contributed a chapter on writing non-fiction.

Four members of the English Department contributed papers to Dordt's Calvinism in the 21st Century Conference: **Dr. Bob De Smith** on "Comfort in the Holy Sonnets: Using Calvin to Interpret John Donne"; **Dr. Mary Dengler** on "An Emptiness about the Heart of Life: A Reformed Reading of Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Michael Cunningham's The Hours"; Professor **Howard Schaap** on "Re-Hearing 'Every Square Inch': Anthropocentrism in Neo-Calvinist Rhetoric"; and **Dr. James Schaap** on "Emily Dickinson, Peter De Vries, and the unshakeable Calvinist character."

Dr. John Zwart was elected secretary of the group of Section Representatives at the meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) held in

Washington, D.C., on February 13-17.

On April 6, Zwart gave three presentations at Woodbury Central Schools in Moville, Iowa, discussing careers in physics and talking about research he and his colleagues and students in the physical sciences have been doing, sprinkling in science demonstrations related to some of the topics. The assemblies were arranged by the Iowa Academy of Science.

Zwart also co-authored a paper titled "Spinning Tubes: An authentic research experience in a three hour laboratory" which appeared in the *American Journal of Physics* volume 78, No 5, May 2010, pp 467-470. Co-authors are Arnold Sikkema, a former colleague now at Trinity Western University, and Steve Steenwyk, Calvin College.

Dr. Bob De Smith regularly participates in the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, but this year was special. He drove up to this year's conference in Bismark, North Dakota (at the University of Mary), with a former student, an English major now in a master's program at Creighton University. The student is Prof. De Smith's daughter, Rachel, and both delivered papers in the same session. The elder De Smith spoke on "Comfort in John Donne's *Holy Sonnets*" while the younger explored "Souls in Community: John Donne, His Preaching, and the New World." Both papers were well received, and the father admits to a good deal of pride regarding this unique experience.

Dr. Socorro Woodbury and **Dr. Leendert van Beek** gave a presentation titled "Crossing Borders: The Christmas Travelers" on April 9 at the annual conference of the North American Christian Foreign Language Association (NACFLA), held at Anderson University in Indiana. The theme of the conference was "Hospitality to the Stranger."

Alumni Council chooses honorees

Wes Fopma

Director of alumni relations

I'd like to share with you some of the decisions made at the spring meeting of the Alumni Council on March 26 and 27.

With the assistance of the college Co-Curricular Committee, the Council chose the honorees for this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards. Those selected represent the three divisions of the academic community.

David De Ridder, '71 (humanities). Pastor De Ridder is the Family Life and Teaching Pastor at the Third Christian Reformed in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Craig Stockmeier, '77 (natural sciences). Dr. Stockmeier is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Mississippi.

Stan, '81, and **Alice (Veluw)**, '80) **Weber** (social sciences). Stan is the executive director of Salama Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee. Alice assisted him for many years before taking a different position recently.

The honorees will be recognized at a banquet on Friday evening, September 17, 2010, during Alumni Weekend festivities.

Alumni council members interviewed seven junior finalists for the Alumni Association Scholarships. Recipients of this year's scholarships are Adrianna Oudman from Wheatfield, Indiana; Sarah



Wes Fopma

Seymour from San Diego, California; Jessica Suk from Fenwick, Ontario; and Megan Pothoven from Kellogg, Iowa. Scholarship interviews are always one of the highlights of Alumni Council meetings.

They give council members a chance to see firsthand the best and brightest of Dordt College students. In a "first" for our selection process, two of the interviews were conducted via Skype. One student was in Boston at the time checking out law schools and the other student was in the Netherlands on SPICE.

The Council's regional programming committee presented a schedule of alumni events for the coming year. Many of this year's events are being planned around the public phase of the Beyond Jubilee/Vision 2020 campaign. We'll also gather at some major league baseball games, as we've done in years past. We'll be in Minneapolis on **Friday, July 16**, at the new **Twins** stadium as they play the Chicago White Sox. Two weeks later we'll be in Denver on **Saturday, July 31**, as the **Rockies** host the Chicago Cubs. And two weeks after that, we'll be in **Kansas City** on **Saturday, August 14** as the Royals host the New York Yankees. Please contact the alumni office as soon as possible to reserve a spot. For more information on these and other events check the alumni events website at <https://www.dordt.edu/>

main/alumni/events.

Alumni Weekend plans were also put into place. Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18. In addition to the banquet honoring our Distinguished Alumni, you can attend a Pops Concert on Friday evening in the BJ Haan Auditorium, an ice cream social after the Pops Concert, a golf tournament sponsored by the Future Business Executives Club at the new Ridge Golf Course in Sioux Center on Saturday morning, a Kid's Carnival at noon on Saturday on the tennis courts, football and soccer games, and tours of campus. Finally, on Saturday night, Christian comedian Jeff Allen will present his show starting at 7:30 p.m. See a preview of Jeff on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ddwKrWktG8>. It should be a great show for the whole family. Tickets will be \$12 for the show and \$10 per ticket for groups of 10 or more. E-mail me at wfopma@dordt.edu or call 712-722-6028 for tickets.

I'd like to thank the following Alumni Council members for their willingness to serve on the Alumni Council. They will be retiring from the council this summer. Mark Blankespoor from Pella, Iowa; Matt Beimers from Langley, British Columbia; and Julie Kielstra from Calgary, Alberta; have made tremendous contributions to the work of Dordt College in their areas of North America. We are truly grateful for their service. Please express your gratitude to them if you have the opportunity.

Nurses get a home away from home

The Van Holland "Bed and Breakfast" or home away from home for Dordt nursing students opened in February and, although it will close for the summer, it'll be open again for the 2010-11 school year, says Bonnie (Baker, '85) Van Holland.

The home away from home idea began when Bryan and Bonnie Van Holland took their daughter, Erica, to a Dordt College campus visit day for nursing students. As Bonnie listened to students and faculty talk about the trips they made from Sioux Center to Sioux City for clinicals every week, her mothering instincts kicked in and she began to wonder what the students did in bad weather.

"We wanted those students to have a connection point at the other end of their fifty-minute commute," she says. As it turned out, even though the weather was the primary motivation for the Van Hollands' offer, late night and early morning clinicals were the more pressing motivator for the students who decided to stay with them.

The Van Hollands invited all nursing students to an open house so they could meet and see where they lived. They offered a finished basement with a variety of beds, couches, and floor space, if needed.

"It helped us feel comfortable about calling and asking to stay," says Lisa Goedhart. "They were so hospitable. Once we called to stay with ten of us. Without missing a beat, they replied, 'Sounds like a fun party!'" After several games of ping pong, bowls of popcorn, and lots of laughs, they all had a relaxing night's sleep before an early morning



At various times this past semester, many nursing students dropped in at the Van Hollands. These seniors posed together at their pinning ceremony, held the day before graduation.

clinical.

Once or twice a week this past semester, two to nine students stayed with the family. In addition to the popcorn, chocolate chip cookies, and ping pong, they were always sent off in the morning with blueberry muffins.

Leah Hanenburg stayed at the Van Holland home four times this winter.

"It has been so nice to be able to have somewhere to stay when the weather is bad or we have late evening and early morning clinical. They are always so welcoming, and we feel right at home when we are there! We are so appreciative of their warm hospitality!"

Bonnie admits that they have another motive, too. They wanted Erica, their last child at home, to rub shoulders with students in her field of interest.

"What outstanding students have walked

through our doors!" she says. "Through conversations around the popcorn bowl, they expressed their love for what they were learning. They shared experiences about their day of interacting with patients. Involuntarily they passed on to Erica a peek at what her college life might look like in a year."

Erica decided to do an overnight visit at Dordt this spring. Goedhart returned the family's hospitality and hosted Erica and two friends, showing them around campus, introducing them to her friends, and making their college visit a memorable one.

"We think it is important for members of Dordt's community to give back and offer resources and provide support for these up and coming students," says Bonnie. "Having these amazing young adults in our home is our small way of impacting God's kingdom."

Den Boer joins the ranks of elite writers in Stanford writing program

Sarah Den Boer ('02), a Ph.D. student at the University of South Dakota, has been awarded a 2010 Wallace Stegner Fellowship at the Creative Writing Program at Stanford University. And although she's known the news since March, she still has moments when she is hardly able to believe it is true.

Each year, Stanford offers ten two-year fellowships—five in fiction and five in poetry. Named for Wallace Stegner, the fiction writer and Stanford professor who founded Stanford's creative writing program, the fellowship includes a stipend of \$26,000 per year, tuition, and health insurance costs. The Stegner Fellowship is exceptionally competitive: 1,784 writers applied this year. Recipients write and attend a weekly three-hour workshop with Stanford faculty. Many well-known writers have been Stegner Fellows in the past, including Wendell Berry, Raymond Carver, Marilyn Chin, Robert Pinsky, Tobias Wolff, Dean Young, Jeffrey Eugenides, and ZZ Packer.

Den Boer, the author of "Sawdust, Sugarcube," a collection of poems published by Dancing Girl Press (www.dancinggirlpress.com/sawdust.html), has also published poems in several literary magazines. She and her husband, Josh Meendering ('99), will move from Bozeman, Montana, to the San Francisco area this summer.

"I feel a bit sheepish to admit that I did not even realize the level of prestige of this fellowship when I applied last fall," says Den Boer. "Generally, I don't apply to things like this, but I felt oddly compelled last November, even though I didn't think I had a chance." After applying, Den Boer says she mostly forgot about it until March 1, when she received both an e-mail and a voicemail from Eavan Boland saying that she'd been awarded a fellowship.

"Josh won't let me erase that voicemail—it's not every day that one receives a voicemail from a famous poet," she says. "After a bit of disbelief that my application was actually selected, one word sums up my reaction: THRILLED!"

Marian (DeJong, '60) de Vries of Calgary, Alberta, passed away on February 3, 2010. She spent years as a librarian in Christian schools in the United States and Canada and in mission schools in Africa. She also served the Lord as a pianist, organist, and soloist. Marian is survived by her husband, Simon, and three children.

Randy DeWolde ('82) writes, "In the summer of 2008, I participated in the Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour which went from Seattle to New York City. It was in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the CRC in North America and raised a good amount of money for CRWRC and other organizations. The tour took us through Iowa so we spent a night at Dordt College. It was great to be back after nearly thirty years! Our son Matt (youngest of three) is currently attending Dordt. He thinks it's great and admits that Dad really was right."

Paul Otto ('87), as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, undertook research in 2009 at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. He has just been awarded a 2010 summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a research project titled "Beads of Power: Wampum and the Making of Early America." Paul is professor of history and chair of the Department of History and Political Science at George Fox University in Oregon.

► **Jim ('90)** and **DeAnn Timmermans** of Hull, Iowa, were blessed to adopt Benjamin John, born on December 29, 2009, in Tupelo, Mississippi. Benjamin joins big brother Daniel who was adopted in January of 2009. Benjamin's adoption was finalized on March 30, 2010.

Brenda Van Hal ('92) and Gary Dabb were married on June 20, 2009, and live in Pleasantville, Iowa. Brenda works for the local high school teaching English and journalism, and Gary works for Vermeer Corporation.

Dirk and **Michelle (Mennega, '92)** De Jong announce the birth of Collin Teun on October 17, 2008.

Marco and **Martine (Hubers, '92)** Kluver announce the birth of Bram Gideon, born on February 26, 2010, in Dordrecht, The Netherlands. He joins siblings David and Emma.

Debra (De Boer, '93) Broek was recently appointed Deputy Head of Investor Relations at Zurich Financial Services Group. Debra joined Zurich Financial Services in 2007 as CFO at Global Life Insurance. She holds a bachelor's degree in both accounting and business administration from Dordt College.

Justin Luth ('95) will provide computer support for Wycliffe Bible Translator teams in the Sudan. He is excited that "computer guys" are the third highest recruitment priority within Wycliffe (where nearly 200 technical positions remain unfilled) and that his abilities are valuable in the work of Bible translation.

Jeff ('95) and **Karen (Zylstra, '96)** De Boer announce the birth of Elijah Mark on December 9, 2009.



▲ **Todd and Lisa (Barry, '96)** Pierson of Orland Park, Illinois, announce the birth of Faith Isabella on January 11, 2010. Faith joins Grace (4) and Gabe (2).

Round Robin turns forty

Ten teacher education graduates from the class of 1969 still anticipate the packet of nine letters from their classmates via snail mail every few months.

"We have considered whether we should go to e-mail, now that we finally all have it, but decided we like sitting with a cup of coffee and the letters in hand too much to change," says Evie (Dykstra) Elgersma of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In fact, three of the group who live in Michigan take the opportunity to meet when the packet arrives in their mail boxes and read them together.

Actually, the Round Robin goes in two directions so that those on the end of the list don't get old "news."

"They used to be all handwritten, but most of us type our letters now," says Elgersma.

Five of the letter writers met during Dordt's Jubilee Reunion, but the group has not been together since graduation and, in fact, they don't know whether

they'd be best friends if they all lived in the same community. Nevertheless, they share something important.

Most of them married after they'd been out of college and don't have Dordt spouses; some of their children have gone to Dordt, some haven't; most stayed home to raise their children for a number of years; most are community-minded.

"We write about our children, travel, books, business, health problems—but we don't get into politics," Elgersma says. She doesn't even remember exactly how the Round Robin started. She just knows she hopes it keeps going for a long time yet.

Members:

Judy (Sturing) Hall, Evie (Olthoff) Haupt Sina (Stuckey) Veldkamp, Harriet (Guillame) Bochma, Mary (De Vries) Werkhoven, Kathy (Veenstra) Mulder Lois (Marriam) Vermeer, Evie (Dykstra) Elgersma, Marge (Port) Blair, Wendy (Veenstra) Blankespoor

► **Brian ('00)** and **Melissa (Abee '01)**

Koning announce the birth of Brenna Marie on December 27, 2009, in Olympia, Washington. She joins Abigail (2).

Nathaniel ('01) and **Emily (Klaasen, '01)** Wilson of Morristown, New Jersey, announce the birth of Logan Reid on February 15, 2009. He joins his brother, Andrew. Nathaniel received a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Columbia University on February 10, 2010

Mark ('01) and **Jillian (Van Doesburg, '01)** Bentum announce the birth of Lauren Ruby, born on August 14, 2009, in Edmonton, Alberta.

► **Adam ('01)** and **Sarah (Eekhoff, '01)** Zylstra welcomed Luke Timothy on November 11, 2009. He joins Noah.

Ryan ('01) and **Amanda (Poppema, '02)** Lefever of Shawnee, Kansas, announce the birth of Zach Reid on March 15, 2010. He joins Rex (2).

Cara (Bonnema, '02) Welch has joined the staff of the Natural Products Association as its coordinator for scientific and regulatory affairs. Bonnema will help develop the organization's natural certification program in setting natural standards for household products and, in the future, other products.

Mike ('02) and **Lillian (Wilgenburg, '00)** De Groot announce the birth of Nina Elisabeth on May 7, 2009. The Wilgenburgs live in Texico, New Mexico.

Carl and **Karoline (Dockter, '02)** Bootsma of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, announce the birth of Karrie Debora on November 20, 2009. She joins Carson (2).

Nathan and **Amanda (Ellens, '03)** Westendorp welcomed Brielle Anna-Joy on June 25, 2009.

Matthew ('03) and **Alexis (Smith, '04)** Hilbelink of West Valley City, Utah, announce

the birth of Kristyn Faith on March 20, 2010. She joins Aiden and Kaitlyn.

Wes and **Jodi (Cooper, '03)** Jackson of San Diego, California, announce the birth of Kate Joanne on February 27, 2010.

Christopher and **Kelly (Hubers, '03)** Rouse announce the birth of Ryan Christopher, born on February 24, 2010, in Washington, North Carolina. He joins Luke (3) and Julia (1).

Seth ('04) and **Tiffany (Ulferts, '03)** Steensma announce the birth of Kaylee Rae on February 3, 2010, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

David ('04) and **Sally (Vander Griend, '04)** Vander Tuin of Sioux Center, Iowa, welcomed Elsie Marie on December 18, 2009.

Andrew ('05) and **Sarah (Versluis, '05)** De Young of Minneapolis, Minnesota, founded the publishing company Replacement Press in 2009 with the hope of providing a fresh literary voice. Andrew serves as the company's editor, and Sarah is the graphic designer. On March 15, 2010, they released their first book titled *If You Lived Here You'd Already Be Home* by Minneapolis writer John Jodzio. The book is a collection of short stories that captures the "fresh, new, and emerging voice" that the De Youngs were looking for. Both the book and the publishing company have been highlighted in several Twin Cities magazines and newspapers, including the *Star Tribune* and *Pioneer Press*.

If You Lived Here is available to purchase from www.amazon.com. Learn more about Replacement Press at replacementpress.com.

Kara Bouma ('05) married Andrew Feikema on July 11, 2009.

Daryl and **Bethany (Posthuma, '06)** Rylaarsdam announce the birth of Caden John, born on April 17, 2009, in Luverne, Minnesota.

Jeff ('06) and **Samantha Zomer** announce the birth of Brooke Marie on January 26, 2010.

Brandon ('06) and **Jill (Bouma, '06)** Haan of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, welcomed Makenna Erin on August 26, 2009.

Jeremiah and **Angela (Koppendrayer, '06)** Orcutt announce the birth of Caden Thomas on February 24, 2010.

Nathanael ('06) and **Krystal (Finseth, '06)** Van Ee of Oskaloosa, Iowa, announce the birth of Micah Jan, born on March 10, 2010. Nathanael works as a product engineer for Musco Sports Lighting in Oskaloosa. Krystal currently teaches geometry at Oskaloosa High School but plans to be a stay-at-home mom at the end of the school year.

Jonathan ('07) and **Robin (Christoffels, '06)** Schutter announce the birth of Tristan John, born August 26, 2009.

Lucas ('07) and **Merribeth (Van Engen, '07)** De Groot of Ankeny, Iowa, welcomed Olivia Maria on March 8, 2010. Lucas is a Research Associate for Pioneer Seeds in Johnston, Iowa, and Merribeth is a dental assistant at McCullough Family Dentistry in Ankeny.

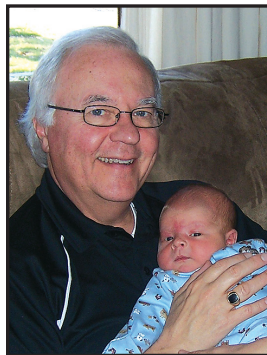
Mandi Pruismann ('07) and Joel Dolieslager were married on March 20, 2010, in Sioux Center, Iowa. Mandi teaches English at Unity Christian High School in Orange City.

Matt ('07) and **Kristin (Tiggelaar, '07)** Koelewyn announce the birth of Evan Michael, born on March 19, 2010, in Edina, Minnesota.

Rebecca Lytle (ex'07) and Jon LeJeune were married on December 29, 2006, and now live in McCook, Nebraska. Jabin Michael Anthony was born on October 9, 2007. Rebecca received a bachelor's degree in Social Services from Ashford University on March 22, 2010.

Craig ('08) and **Sarah (Sparks, '08)** Horstman announce the birth of Caden Daniel on September 14, 2009.

Alex ('08) and **Katie (Roder, '09)** Jansen announce the birth of Payton Marc, born December 3, 2009. The Jansens live in Tucson, Arizona.



At home in China

Trixanna Nikkel ('01) is a product manager at Balama Prima Equipment in China, responsible for sales and marketing of equipment manufactured by Vermeer Corporation. Nikkel canvasses the country, meeting with potential and current customers.

Tell us about where you live.

Beijing, China, is where I call home, but I live wherever I happen to open my suitcase every evening. I travel extensively and usually sleep in a different hotel each night. In fact, in the last seven days, I took six flights, traveled thousands of miles, and stayed in a new hotel every night. In the course of three days, I saw herds of wild camels in the deserts of northwestern China, dined on lobsters on the coast of northeastern China, and waded in mud up to my knees in the monsoons of southern China. My job takes me to new and exciting places every week. But when I'm not traveling, I try to enjoy the simpler things of life. I grew up in rural Iowa enjoying the green grass beneath my feet and the blue skies above my head, and now I find myself living in a city of concrete and smog. So I look for ways to escape and find reminders of home. Walks in the park, evenings in the English movie theater, and the occasional dinner at a steak house all help me stay in touch with my roots.

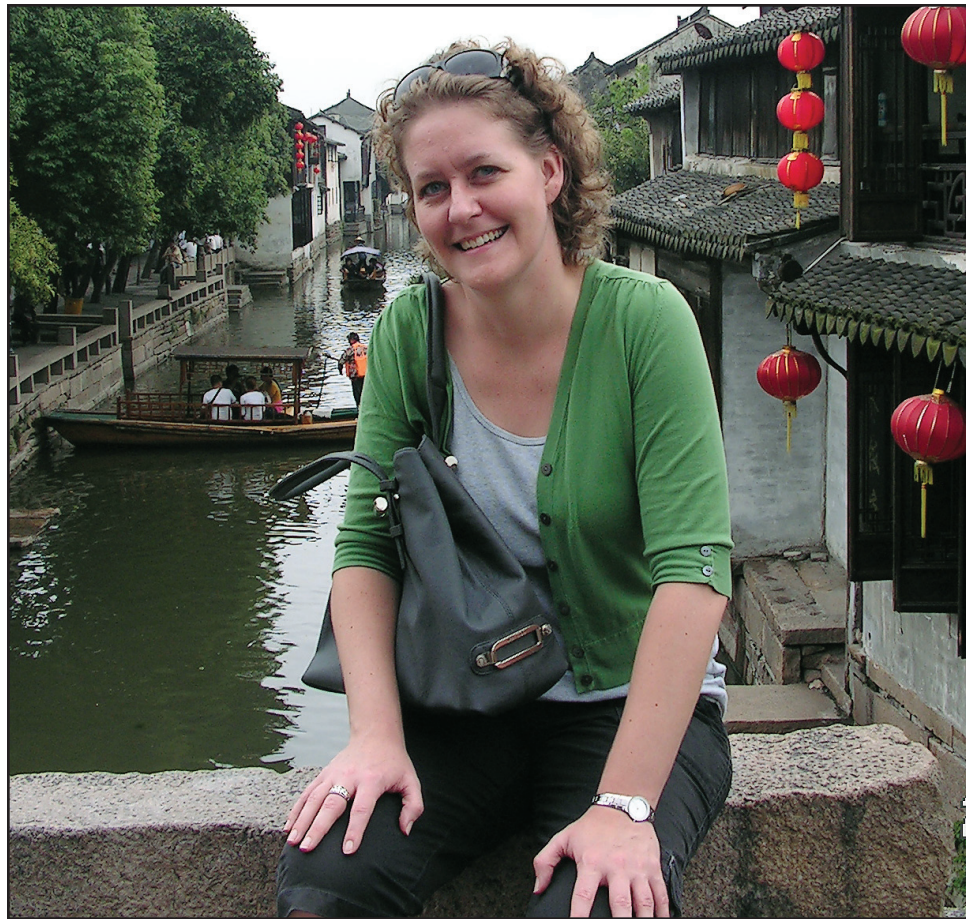
What drew you to business?

I never anticipated going into business. I always envisioned myself in a role with a nonprofit company. But after graduate school, a job in business opened up so I decided to give it a try. I never anticipated that I would love working in business as much as I do!

Did your education prepare you for this?

My education at Dordt provided an excellent foundation for the challenges I would face. I came from a small, Midwest town and couldn't imagine life outside my small world. I realized soon after graduating that life isn't always as easily understood as I had believed. But my education prepared me for that transition. At Dordt I gained confidence in who I was, and I learned to appreciate the values of my heritage. Once I ventured outside my small world and faced the challenges presented by the bigger world, my firm foundation in the worldview so solidly instilled in me while at Dordt helped keep me grounded.

My political studies background doesn't directly apply to the day-to-day activities of my current job. But when I began working in business here in China, I certainly thought about how a job in business/sales could mesh with my values and worldview formed in part by my education at Dordt. It seems that many foreign corporations that come to China are here to get rich fast, with little thought of how their business will affect the country and the people over the long term, and this is a form of business that I wanted nothing to do with. But I was fortunate enough to find a company that has been committed to the development of China's infrastructure for more than thirty years. I personally focus on two lines of equipment: one that is used for the installation of large diameter gas pipelines



Trixanna Nikkel travels around China, visiting jobsites and offices, seeing the country, and building relationships that help pave the way for making future sales.

and another that is used in surface mining. The equipment I sell is primarily used for getting valuable minerals and resources from the uninhabitable areas of western China and making them available to the majority of the population concentrated in eastern China. China's infrastructure and quality of life has improved dramatically over the last few decades because of companies like the one I work for.

What made you decide to go to China?

In college, I intended to go to law school, but in my senior year I realized I wanted to take time to make sure law school was a step I was ready to take. I had volunteered with ELIC (English Language Institute in China) one summer during high school, so volunteering with them after graduating was an easy way to achieve the one-year break I needed. I didn't expect it to alter my path so much!

Although I quickly discovered teaching English was not for me, I have no regrets about my year spent with ELIC. ELIC helps those with an adventurous spirit take their first steps outside the comforts of home. It provided a support network for me as I gained confidence and experience in overseas living. The survival skills learned while working with ELIC prepared me for more independent moves later on.

Did you intend to return to China when you began a master's in East Asian Studies?

In China I quickly realized that law school was not the path I wanted to follow.

However, I also realized that I was not yet finished learning. So I spent the next few years in China exploring my skills and talents and searching for that "perfect" career. I eventually realized that although I couldn't identify a specific career to follow, I enjoyed my life in Asia. So I decided to pursue an education that would back up the life experiences I had gained since graduating from college. I entered the Asia/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University, gaining a master's in East Asian Studies. This program allowed me to create a course of studies suited to my interests. I learned as much as I could about East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) history, politics, economics, anthropology, and religion. I worried about what kind of job such a broad degree would lead to, but a mentor/professor at Dordt assured me that if I had a passion for what I studied, a career I enjoyed would naturally follow. He was right, and I've never regretted my decision to pursue my degree at Duke.

While in my graduate program, I knew that whatever line of work I got into after graduation would have something to do with China and/or East Asia.

What have you learned about yourself and your culture, living in another culture?

Living in another culture is both challenging and exciting. The adventures I've had have not come without a price, but I'm grateful for my experiences. I've had to make sacrifices: I can't spend as much time with my family and friends as I'd like, and

some of my favorite hobbies are simply not possible here. And as a six-foot-tall, blond-haired, blue-eyed American woman, I will never truly fit into the Chinese culture or be treated as one of their own. But these challenges have made me understand myself in ways I don't think I could have if I had not left the comforts of home; I've discovered a hidden confidence. I've also gained a greater appreciation for my background and where I come from.

What keeps you doing what you do?

I am the only non-Chinese employee on staff in a Chinese company. I work with a wonderful group of people, but the occasional language and cultural differences do create challenges once in awhile. When these differences arise, rather than letting myself become overwhelmed by the differences, I try to remind myself of the valuable life skills I am learning by working through the challenges. Another challenge is the large amount of travel I do. I am on the road a minimum of eighty percent of the time, and life on the road can be quite solitary. And even when I return home to Beijing, I'm still on the other side of the world from most of my family and friends. I know I can't maintain this kind of lifestyle forever, but for now I try to enjoy all the wonderful sights, sounds, smells, and tastes my job allows me. I have experienced much in the last year that many people only dream about, and I will forever cherish the adventures I have had.

What lies ahead?

I've learned that I usually do best if I try not to look too far into the future. So, for now, I'm content to focus on the here and now. I'm enjoying what I do, and the opportunities ahead are endless.

I initially came to China by "accident." I had no particular reason to choose China over any other country in the world. I came simply because this is where the opportunity was. But after I arrived, I realized this is where I was meant to be. When I first moved to China, everything about my life here seemed captivating. The sights (architecture and landscape unlike anything I'd ever seen before), sounds (the baffling Chinese language), and smells (the rich aroma of the street vendor's sizzling wok) that greeted me when I arrived inspired in me a desire to explore more, experience more, learn more until eventually the new and different became the secure and comfortable. I've now spent much of my adult life here. My career is here. My friends are here. My home is here. My life is here. Someday, when it is time to return to the United States, whether that be ten days or ten years from now, I trust the calling will be clear. And when that time comes, I look forward to the next adventures that are in store for me.

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and people of the college. It can be found online at www.dordt.edu/publications/voice/. Send address corrections and correspondence to VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250- 1606 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu.


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